

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-21 and 37 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action of January 2, 2004, the Examiner made the following disposition:

- A.) Rejected claims 1, 3 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kiryuschev et al.*
- B.) Rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kiryuschev et al.* in view of *Nishimura et al.*
- C.) Rejected claims 17-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kiryuschev et al.* in view of *Anvekar*.
- D.) Objected to claims 4-15.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and addresses the Examiner's disposition as follows:

- A.) Rejection of claims 1, 3 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kiryuschev et al.*:

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection.

Applicant respectfully acknowledges the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter in claim 4. Claim 4 has been amended to be placed in independent form including the limitations of claim 1, from which it previously depended. Claim 1 has accordingly been canceled. Therefore, claim 4, as amended, is allowable.

Claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 4, and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 4 is allowable.

Claim 37 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 4, which the Examiner stated was allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 37, as amended, is allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 4 is allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits the rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

B.) Rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kiryuschev et al.* in view of *Nishimura et al.*:

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection.

Applicant respectfully acknowledges the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter in claim 4. Claim 16 has been amended to depend from claim 4, and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 4 is allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits the rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

C.) Rejection of claims 17-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kiryuschev et al.* in view of *Anvekar*:

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection.

Applicant respectfully acknowledges the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter in claim 4. Independent claim 17 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 4, which the Examiner stated was allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 17, as amended, is allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 4 is allowable.

Claims 18-21 depend directly or indirectly from claim 17 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 17 is allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits the rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

D.) Objection to claims 4-15:

Applicant respectfully acknowledges the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter in claims 4-15.

Claim 4 has been amended to be placed in independent form including the limitations of claim 1, from which it previously depended. Claim 1 has accordingly been canceled. Therefore, claim 4, as amended, is allowable.

Claims 5-15 depend directly or indirectly from claim 4 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 4 is allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits the objection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing discussion and analysis, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3-21 and 37, are in a condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on February 10, 2004.

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